



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE		Salton Seismic Imaging Project	
PROJECT LOCATION	(1) T18S, R3E, NE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 30, SBBM (Wentz site)	COUNTY	All 5 project locations are in San Diego County
	(2) T17S, R2E, SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 33, SBBM (Dulzura site)		
	(3) T18S, R4E, NE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 18, SBBM (Potrero site)		
	(4) T18S, R5E, NW ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 10, SBBM (Campo site)		
	(5) T17S, R6E, SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 36, SBBM (White Star site)		
LEAD AGENCY		California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)	
CONTACT	Daniel G. Foster, Senior Environmental Planner California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection		Phone (916) 653-0839
ADDRESS	Resource Management – Environmental Protection P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves the temporary installation and construction of small seismographs at five locations on CAL FIRE property within San Diego County.

Stanford University, in partnership with the National Science Foundation, has been granted approval from CAL FIRE to install temporary seismographs at five CAL FIRE properties in support of basic science investigations intended to lead to greater understanding of earthquake hazard and thereby to mitigate risk to the public in future large or great earthquakes in southernmost California and northernmost Mexico. All data recorded at these stations will be archived in the data repository of CISN (California Integrated Seismic Network) at the Southern California Earthquake Management Center (SCEC), and will be available to the public at no charge.

At each of the five sites, the proposed project will install a temporary earthquake recorder (seismometer) in a hole approximately two feet deep and two feet in diameter. Only hand tools will be used during the installation. No fill will be removed from the site. An "action-packer" containing a 12V sealed lead-acid battery and a data-logger will be placed alongside the seismometer, and a solar panel will be mounted on an aluminum frame approximately four feet high, to power the unit. The entire system will fit within a nine foot by nine foot area and may be fenced at local Battalion Chief's request. All the temporary installations will be removed after two years (January 2012), and the sites remediated. Site (1) is in a remote area accessed by dirt road subject to seasonal closure. Sites (2) through (5) are within the compound of existing Forest Fire Stations. Each site will be installed in half a day by a three-person crew; will be visited at 3-to-4 month intervals for about 1 hour to check station integrity and download data; and will be removed and the site remediated in half a day by a three-man crew.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1, 3, and 4 §15301 (f) Existing Facilities
§15303 (e) New Construction
§15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of three classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA: Class 1 covering minor alterations to existing public facilities, Class 3 describing construction of new small structures and installation of small new equipment, and Class 4 including minor alterations to the condition of land with minor trenching and backfilling followed by surface restoration. The project activities would be limited to a very small area within areas previously disturbed. The areas where new ground disturbing activities might occur are limited and are best described as minor in scope.

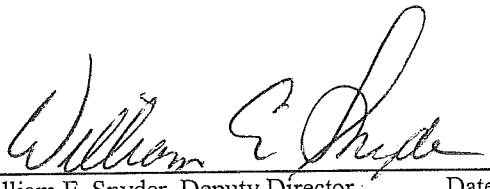


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Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's Headquarters in Sacramento.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

 8/24/10

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

